

Application No. 10/702,206
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 12, line 20 as follows:

The compartment-defining portion 20 of the rear wall 14 has a lower edge 24 staggered or raised with respect to a lower edge 28 of the front wall 12, for example, by about 3 inches relative to the lower edge 28 of the front wall 12, and its upper edge 26 also raised relative to the upper edge 30 of front wall 12. The actual distance between the lower edge 24 of the compartment-defining portion 20 and the lower edge 28 of the front wall 12 depends on the number of ~~compartment~~ compartments defined therebetween.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 14, line 6 as follows:

Sorter/organizer 10 further includes, as best seen in FIGS. 7 and 8, a bottom wall 46 which is stepped, i.e, includes different portions at different heights and is connected to upper edge portions of the side walls 16, 18. Specifically, as seen in FIG. 8, bottom wall 46 includes a first bottom panel 48 having an arcuate portion 48a and a substantially flat or planar portion 48b forward of the arcuate portion 48a and preferably coplanar with the lower edge 28 of the front wall 12. In this case, the planar portion 48b of the first bottom panel 48 would rest on the

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desktop or other flat surface when sorter/organizer 10 is vertically oriented thereon and thereby the portion ~~[[48B]]~~ 48b of the first bottom panel 48 would further support the sorter/organizer 10.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 17, line 5 as follows:

Although the sides of the compartments 36, 38, 40 are open, it is nevertheless beneficial to include some form of a retaining structure in the sorter/organizer 10 which is designed to prevent file folders and other objects from inadvertently slipping out of the compartments 36, 38, 40. To this end, ledges or lips 58 are formed integral with the side walls 16, 18 and extending above the upper edge of the side walls 16, 18. The ledges 58 are arranged alongside the bottom panels 48, 50 and 54 and extend upward to a height (for example, about 1/16 to about 1/4 inch) above the bottom of the compartments 36, 38, 40. However, the height of the ledges 58 is considerably smaller than the height of the front, rear and dividing walls 12, 14, 42, 44, ~~[[46,]]~~ i.e., the ledges 58 extend only partially toward the upper edges of the front, rear and dividing walls 12, 14, 42, 44, so that the sides of the compartments 36, 38, 40 are almost completely open.

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Please amend the Abstract as follows, a clean version of the proposed substitute Abstract is provided on the following sheet:

~~A sorter/organizer~~ Sorter/organizer for file folders or other objects, includes at least three substantially planar walls arranged ~~substantially~~ parallel to one another ~~, the at least three walls and~~ including a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between the front wall and the rear wall walls. Side walls are connected to the three walls ~~, the side walls with~~ each having a lower edge substantially coplanar with a lower edge of the front wall and ~~being~~ arranged to enable a bottom of the compartments to be positioned at varied heights. A first stepped bottom wall is connected to the ~~at least~~ three walls and to at least one ~~of the~~ side walls wall such that at least two compartments receivable of objects ~~are formed, the compartments being and~~ staggered in relation to one another ~~are formed~~. At least one ~~of the~~ side walls wall has upper edge portions connected to the first bottom wall. Ledges extend above the upper edge portions of the side walls and alongside a bottom of a respective ~~one of the compartments, the ledges extending only partially toward upper edges of the three walls such that at least one side of the compartments is open above the ledges. A wider construction enables at least one additional intermediate storage compartment to be defined, between a set of the~~ ~~aforementioned compartments~~ compartment.